

The Enigma

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St. Louis, Missouri

Mystery Material and Mega-Brain For UFO Study Group

ST. LOUIS, MO. The UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis met at 2:00 PM Sunday, October 13, 1991. President John Schroeder greeted members and guest and opened the meeting by introducing Frank Brown, group Marshall. Brown read headlines from recent supermarket tabloids concerning UFO, psychic and paranormal events. Brown mentioned he had also picked up an interesting book War Head and wasn't sure how much was really fact or science fiction. Tom Bollows, attending member, mentioned that perhaps, it should be called "science faction."

Marjorie Sherrill mentioned a new book by Michael Talbot entitled The Holographic Universe. She suggested Marge Myers do a book report for the group to determine if it should

be purchased for the UFOSG Library.

Schroeder moved on stating that Study Group member Crystal Jackson would chair a round table discussion about implants, etc., at the November meeting. Study Group Librarian, Alex Horvat, mentioned a two-part article he had been reading in the October issue of The Mufon UFO Journal regarding implants entitled "Mega-Brain." Horvat stated he has some ideas about it but needs some scientific support. He plans to check with Washington University to put some things together.

Dave Rapp, UFOSG Chief Field Investigator, commented he is presently researching the matter of implants, and believes they enhance the implant-ee's telepathic capabilities.

Horvat picked up with saying that part-two of

the Mufon UFO Journal article on the Mega-Brain mentioned the 1970-71 Rand Corporation study. There was a discussion about super conductivity. Horvat stated that high magnetic fields are found in super conductivity. Brown indicated that when you stand by a high magnetic field you can feel actual "push" or strength from the field when you hold your hand 12 inches from it.

Horvat had brought some hand-outs for the attendees and included a petition of action for current Chairman George Brown of the House Committee of Science, Space and Technology in Washington, D.C. The petition requests that N.A.S.A. make whatever efforts needed to take detailed photos of the area of Cydonia on Mars during the next Mars Observer mission and that civilians involved in the "Mars Project" under the direction of Richard Hoagland (or his appointees) be allowed to oversee the timely transfer of this data to the general public.

Horvat next asked if members had an interest in a college level evening class dealing with UFO's, ET's and the investigation of them by MUFON and other qualified individuals. He asked that those interested contact him at 25 Jackson Place, Apartment P., St. Charles, MO. 63303. Include your name and address. Your phone number is optional.

After a brief break, Dave Rapp gave a slide presentation of several reported Missouri cases.

The first case involved the mysterious material found in Mark Twain National Forest on August 9, 1991 by well known local spelunker, Leo Thompson. He first noticed some plastic material blowing in the breeze and then found a mass of other material on the ground.

The debris was located in a very dense part of the forest, about 30 minutes walking distance. Consequently, Rapp did not feel that someone had hauled the material in. There appeared to be two types of debris. On viewing the material, Rapp's impression was that it was definitely not something from space. The debris inspected by Rapp consisted of what looked like heavy duty plastic wrapping material and the other looked like some kind of rock but something that appeared to have melted and then hardened. He arranged to have two pieces of it analyzed by Polytech Lab. Spectrometer readings indicated both pieces were a high molecular density polyethylene.

Rapp said he got some information on meteors from a professor at William Raney-Harper College in Illinois, and concluded that this was not the fallout of a

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MYSTERY MATERIAL

meteor because the fire burn from a meteor exhausts, or goes out, about 6 miles up. By the time the meteor falls to earth it's cold when it lands, as opposed to the Hollywood versions we're all used to seeing. Still, Rapp speculated that the melting effect of the debris happened after it had fallen to the ground.

Rapp believes that it was a weather balloon, research balloon or military experiment that required a balloon. The debris did not come down with a resounding crash based on the fact that surrounding trees were not downed. If it were a

military project, no military agency seems to have any interest in the find. Rapp theorizes that after what ever it was hit the ground, somebody came out and took from it whatever they wanted and then burned the remains. He said the surrounding trees show that a severe fire singed the bark area of the trees that face the debris. Because of the regrowth on the trees, it is believed that the debris fell a number of years ago.

The second case Rapp discussed was about a glowing rock near Stockton Dam. Dwayne and Susan Bedell, built a house near this area and Dan began

researching the phenomena. It seems that two years in a row, in February, the Bedell's dog acted funny one evening. The Bedells saw some kind of light coming over a rise but it went away before they could get to it. From where they were, on the hillside was a large rock the size of a car. They noticed some kind of strange markings which they thought looked pre-Columbian. About a half mile from this site is a pile of rocks in a diamond shape. It is unknown whether the two are connected.

The third case was that of a not very impressive crop circle in Phillipsberg, Missouri. The slide showed the circle incorporating a utility pole. There have been stories that UFO's are often seen hovering over electric wires, but that may just be coincidental to this case. A farmer across the road from the field said he thinks it's nothing more than water pouring out of a culvert across from it. Dwayne Bedell said there

was no standing water because they had no rain during the period this was formed. All the grass was pushed over from the center out in a radial pattern. Another farmer said he knew what did happen because on time he saw a UFO suspended over a telephone pole and it appeared to be absorbing the electricity. When the UFO took off it had a sudden burst of energy, which created the circle. At this point, the case is still open.

In closing, Rapp informed the group that there is a model of Stonehenge at the University of Missouri at Rolla. They used high pressure water to cut the stones and it is lined up exactly like the original Stonehenge monument.

The November meeting is scheduled to feature a round table discussion with Crystal Jackson regarding implants in humans by aliens.

The Enigma is a monthly publication, September through June, each year of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis. Not affiliated with any national society, The UFO Study Group is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the investigation and reporting of both area and national UFO sightings or peripheral areas of interest. Yearly membership is \$8.00. You may contact the UFO Study Group or any of its members and/or submit articles for publication through P.O. BOX 31544, St. Louis, Missouri 63131.

"SHOW ME UFO/IAC CONFERENCE 1991 VIDEOS!"

by J. L. Palermo
Executive Director, I.M.

ST. LOUIS, MO Putting the bottom line first, we have found a way to manufacture copies of the 1991 Show-Me Conference for very low, LOW purchase prices. For members of either MUFON or the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, as the sponsors of the conference, you may purchase any single lecture (John Carpenters' lecture is a between two and three hours and includes commentary from Linda Moulton Howe and Stanton T. Friedman) with proof of membership, for \$12.00! You may purchase a Double Feature of the speakers of your choice for \$20.00! You may purchase the ENTIRE CONFERENCE for \$45.00! These videos were able to be produced "studio style" and are a pleasure to watch!

Now, the other bottom line. Yes, on Friday night, we were privileged to watch a copy of Linda Moulton Howe's production which aired that same night on the Fox Network. Yes, we captured this program on video. Yes, this video that Linda Moulton Howe worked so hard on for both Paramount Studios and the Fox Network made history as the highest rated program EVER (underlined 47 times!) on Fox Television. The fact is that we are currently working to make contact with Linda to see if it's even plausible to get limited home video distribution rights to include her program as taped that historic Friday night. We don't know as of press time. For those who misplaced their last

Enigma and need a reminder about the speakers, they are as follows: JOHN CARPENTER: Abduction Research, HARRY A. JORDAN, The Enigma on Mars, STAN GORDON, Kecksburg, PA UFO/IAC, STANTON T. FRIEDMAN, Roswell Crash Retrieval, JOHN SCHUESSLER, Our Future in Space, and KEN MCCULLOCH, Ancient Aspects UFO Connections.

Ufological history is unfolding in front of our eyes. These videos and past videos are the way to preserve an accurate reporting of these researchers and their findings. For a complete catalog of UFO DATA TAPE videos, send \$2.75 to International Majesties, 9327 Corregidor St. Louis, MO. 63134.

MORE ON ANGELS AND MYSTERIES OF SPACE

By John E. Schroeder
UFOSG President

ST. LOUIS, MO. Larry Schultz presented a half hour video tape on the mysterious movement of "The House of Loretto" to the Parapsychology Committee at October's meeting.

In 1291 The Mohammedan Saracens moved to destroy all Christian shrines in Palestine. The house in Nazareth where the Virgin Mary purportedly was given the angel's message of her immaculate conception of the Christ and which later had been the home of the whole holy family in Galilee was also threatened. On May 10, 1291, angels reportedly lifted the whole stone-brick house to a remote area in Yugoslavia. The house, then a shrine for European Catholics, was again transported by angels on December 10, 1294: this time to Italy.

Despite the fact that it was a recognized shrine and certified holy place (considered so because the measurements fit the original foundation in Nazareth perfectly), Italians allowed the house to fall into disrepair. Angels moved the house for a third time to the estate of two brothers, again in Italy. The brothers, however, quarreled about the house, the pilgrims it would attract and the responsibilities it would bring them. Within the month, the peace-loving angels moved the house a fourth time to Terra Santo, Italy. There it was welcomed as a shrine. According to the local legend, it hovered above the ground without its stone foundation.

Church officials later had the only door bricked up since it proved a bottleneck for visiting pilgrims. Double doors were then cut into a larger room to ease entry and egress.

Presenter Schultz praised Margaret Myer's previous presentation but noted that Shamael was apparently not the angel who comforted Jesus in Gethsemane. His research into "The City of God", a Mother Superior's medieval interpretation of the Holy Family's history until Mary's Death, indicates that the Archangel Michael ministered to God's son before his arrest, trial, scourging and crucifixion.

After the 10 present at the October 16 Parapsychology Committee meeting had shared refreshments, Bruce Widaman, Missouri MUFON State Director told of the Show Me Conference. Subsequently, he endorsed the following publications:

COSMIC TOP SECRET
by William Hamilton III,
(C)1991, Inner Light Publications, Box 753, New Brunswick, N.J., 08903.

SUPER CONDUCTIVITY
The Threshold of New Technology by Jonathan L. Mayo, Tab Book, Blue Ridge Summit, PA (A Division of McGraw Hill Publishers)

STEALTH TECHNOLOGY
The Art of Black Magic by J. Jones (edited by Matt Thurber), TAB Aero, Blue Ridge Summit, PA

LATEST INTELLIGENCE
by James E. Tunnell (edited by Helen L. Sanders) TAB Books, an international directory of codes used by government, law enforcement, military and surveillance agencies.

INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL
Past, Present and Future by John W. MacVey, Scarborough House/Publishers, (C)1977 and 1991, Chelsea, MI 48118.

UFO CRASH RETRIEVALS
The Inner Sanctum by Leonard Stringfield, 4412 Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH. 45227. Names names, cites threats.

MANKIND: CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY by Kenneth McCulloch (C)1985 Rings of Saturn Publishing, P.O. Box 3440, ThePas, Manitoba, Canada R9A152

THE GREAT UNSOLVED
MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE by John Grant, Chartwell Books (a division of Book Sales, Inc.) 110 Enterprise Ave., Decatur, N.J. 07094.

The next Parapsychology meeting will be at the Schroeder's home, 4991 Miami Street, St. Louis, MO, 7:30 PM, November 20. Discussion of the video

"Reasonable Doubt" will focus on parapsychological aspects of the Kennedy assassination conspiracy.

JUNE 6, 1991
CIRCLES OF DEPRESSED
AQUATIC PLANTS
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
(Part II)

by Peter A. Boström
IL MUFON

THE UFO SIGHTING

Four separate sightings of unknown objects in and around the area of the marsh have occurred within two months of the discovery of the large circles by three individuals. Three are sightings of a very bright light with no sound and one is of a craft of some sort. Unknown aerial phenomena such as lights in the sky, beams of light, strange craft, etc. are sometimes reported with "crop circles." Some accounts have been reported of unidentified craft leaving sites where circles and other physical traces were found. Whether these events are directly connected with these circles is not known. The first UFO sighting happened in early June when the large circles in the marsh were first discovered.

After giving some pictures of the circles to Clarence (owner of the farm with the "crop circles"), he showed them to Larry and Miriam who own the farm to the West of his. They were surprised to hear his story and told of an odd light they had seen sometime in early June. As they were driving away from their prop-

erty one night at approximately 10:00 P.M., they stopped to watch a brilliant light for ten minutes that remained stationary over Clarence's house and approximately 60 feet above. It remained in this position until it streaked off above them at great speed with no sound. It sped away just as Larry glanced away for a second but he caught the movement out the corner of his eye. On the quadrangle map their line of sight with the UFO is on a perfect alignment with the marsh and circles just under a mile away.

At dusk on June 16th, Larry again saw the same brilliant light. "It looked like the landing light of an airplane." This time, he saw it low in the Southeast and within a mile away. It appeared to be hovering around a pond in that direction. From a stationary position it would move a short distance horizontally to the left and stop, then move a short distance to the right and stop. It did this for a few minutes until finally "the light just went out." He could see an airplane several miles away in the direction of the light but could not see any visible structure when the light went out. "I strained my eyes to find something but there was nothing to see, it was gone." No sound was heard and when investigating the area with Clarence, no circles or other odd markings were found in the area of the pond.

Steve, Clarence's son, lives closest to the marsh. On July 21st, as he was going to bed he noticed a very bright light shining through his

North bedroom window in the direction of the marsh. He quickly looked out the window and saw a very brilliant light hovering just a few feet above and at the far edge of a pond that is next to his house. He could see the reflection of light in the water. It was in sight for only a few seconds before it went out and seemed to vanish. He ran outside but could not see or hear anything out of the ordinary. His two dogs seemed undisturbed during the entire incident.

The most recent and impressive sighting happened approximately 9:45 on the evening of July 30. It was witnessed by Larry as he was walking from an office building to the house. He again saw the same bright light in the direction of Clarence's house and watched it for a few minutes until it went out. When the light went out he could see a "line of faint pink light." It then began to move very slowly towards him. As it continued closer he could begin to see redder light underneath as if an overhanging lip on the edge of the structure was covering the lights until almost overhead. When it reached his location and was directly overhead he could see four bright red lights in a square formation and two small white lights that blinked or pulsated. It was perhaps 40 feet across and flying at something below 1,000 feet and at a speed of only 10 or 15 MPH. No structure could be seen against the dark sky. The moon did not rise for another hour. No sound was heard until it was very close and almost directly overhead.

He could then hear a high pitched whining or whistling sound along with a wind rushing sound. It continued West until lost from view in the trees. A few minutes later it came back as a bright light and continued to the East. A few minutes later he saw it again as a bright light in the South. As it moved horizontally it sometimes appeared to have an undulating motion as if it were on waves in the water.

Larry does have a pilots license and a good knowledge of aircraft lights. He also has good perception of speed and height of normal aircraft seen in the night sky. He now has a video camera loaded and ready to go if another opportunity shows itself. All witnesses seemed to be both astonished and impressed by their sightings.

Conclusion

I could not find an explanation for the four circles in this marsh. But I have eliminated several probable causes with the help of quite a number of people. I could find no natural causes for this phenomenon. The weather (wind, rain, hail or lightning) could not have been so selective to pick this one plant from so many other plants and then slowly kill it over a two month period even though the marsh never dried up. Dr. Lembi, the botanist specializing in aquatic plants at Purdue University ruled out disease and could suggest no other reason why Sweet Flag would do this. Soil samples were taken by another scientist and anything geological in nature was ruled out. Animals would

not bed down in the water and this wouldn't have killed the grass left standing in the center anyway.

I could find no human involvement. A helicopter pilot and harrier jet technician ruled out any commonly known aircraft that could leave traces on the ground such as these. No evidence of a hoax could be found. Because of the mud, water and thick grass in the area intrusion into the circles could not be accomplished without leaving some type of evidence such as a trail though the grass, tracks, mud on the leaves, etc. Four witnesses were with me when the circles were first entered for the investigation and they could not find any evidence of a hoax.

I believe the energy that made the circles was directed from above the site and intelligently controlled by either human or alien technology. The alien possibility must be considered from the reported accounts of unknown flying craft in and around the site area.

Footnote:

It has been reported that "crop circle" phenomena will sometimes occur each year in the same area and sometimes in the same fields. Next year we may very well witness similar events. Whether this was a singular occurrence only time will tell.

AUGUST 1991

Addendum

Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus*) has not been identified in Madison County, Illinois although it has been recorded in many surrounding counties. Samples have been requested

by the Botany Department at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale for identification and recording purposes. The samples will hopefully increase the known distribution of this aquatic plant.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1991

On August 31, 1991 at 5:03 P.M. an unknown object was seen in the sky above by two individuals riding in a car. They were approximately 5 miles from the site of the circles and the object was seen in the direction of the site. It was blue in color and half moon in shape (flat on the bottom and round on top). It was several miles away but three times the size of a full moon. It flashed on for two seconds then it was gone. It was moving upward during the two seconds it was seen.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1991

CROSS COUNTRY UFOLOGY

(The following information is supplied from a variety of sources)

STAR, Kansas City, MO - Aug. 19, 1991 CR: V. White

Doctor who wrote UFO book is suspended indefinitely

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — The Kansas Board of Healing Arts has turned a temporary suspension into an indefinite one for Stephan Corder, a former family physician who has refused to submit to mental evaluation following publication of his 1989 book on unidentified flying objects.

His license was suspended in March 1989 and board members ordered him to submit to a mental examination because they thought

his beliefs about UFOs could affect his ability as a doctor.

The board made the suspension indefinite Saturday because of Corder's refusal to get a mental exam. The former Ottawa, Kan., physician has lost every battle in his effort to win back his license.

In May, a retired judge denied Corder's administrative appeal by ruling in favor of the board on all issues in the dispute.

Corder has filed a lawsuit against the board in Shawnee County District Court.

Courtesy of Mr. Lucius Farish
UFO NEWS CLIPPING SERVICE
Rt. 1, Box 220
Plummerville, Ark. 72127, USA

POST, Denver, CO - Sept. 11, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

UFO near shuttle puzzles NASA scientists

By Jeff Franks
Reuters

Neither a bird nor a plane nor even, apparently, Superman, the identity of the mysterious object that floated beside the shuttle Atlantis earlier in its mission continues to elude NASA officials.

The object, about 5 feet long and slightly resembling a car bumper, was videotaped by the astronauts Saturday as it sailed along between the shuttle and Earth.

A NASA spokeswoman said Sunday that the object was no longer visible from the shuttle. But the mystery remained.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration believes the object was nothing more than

debris lost during the deployment of a communications satellite Friday, but acknowledges it cannot be certain what was out there.

Nearly identical objects have been seen on previous shuttle flights from which satellites were deployed, flight director Phil Engelauf said.

He said at a Sunday news briefing at Johnson Space Center in Houston that NASA engineers are still scratching their heads over the object.

"We looked at the tape again and again last night and compared it to videotape" from another mission, Engelauf said. "Except to say it looks identical to the debris we saw before. I can't give you anything new."

Whatever it is, he said, it has not interfered with previous missions or threatened this one.

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England
June 27, 1991 CR: T. Good

UFO fans to gather

ENTHUSIASTS from throughout the world are to converge on Sheffield for the largest conference on Unidentified Flying Objects to be held in Britain.

Speakers and delegates from the United States, Australia, Spain, Belgium, Norway, France and Africa are expected for the three-day sixth International UFO Congress.

Many speakers, who include both experts and people who claim to have seen UFOs, will be presenting papers for the first time in Britain at the event at the Sheffield Library Theatre from August 16-18.

It has been jointly organised by UFO Investigators in the North of England and

the British and American UFO research groups.

Speakers include Mr Charles Hickson from the US, famous in UFO circles for allegedly being abducted and taken aboard a flying saucer, and Mrs Catherine Howard, another American who claims to have been abducted by a UFO.

As an extra attraction, the congress will host a concert by the Scottish rock band CE4 (Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind) on August 17, also at the Library Theatre.

The music of CE4, who have never before played in England, revolves around the mystery of UFOs. The band plays against a futuristic backdrop of aliens and extra-terrestrial artwork.



Close encounters of the Todmorden kind

Hollywood producer flies in to plan film

By John Greenwood

A TOP American film producer plans to make a full-length feature film in Todmorden based on the "UFO" experiences of a former local policeman.

It will follow on from a show screened successfully on a national U.S. television network and also brings in material relating to the largely unexplained death of a man found some months previously in a Todmorden coal yard.

Michael Grais, aged 43, a partner in the Los Angeles based Victor and Grais Productions, visited Todmorden over the weekend and told the "Todmorden News" he wanted to make the film, based on the experiences of Mr Alan Godfrey.

Mr Godfrey, of Todmorden, also aged 43, was a policeman serving in Todmorden 11 years ago when he claimed under hypnosis that he was taken aboard an alien spaceship while on duty in Burnley Road.

Some months before, in June 1980, the body of Polish emigre Zygmunt Jan Adamski was found in bizarre circumstances on a heap of coal in a coal yard near Todmorden Railway Station.

The "Todmorden News" reported then that the body had been found with mysterious head injuries, which appeared to be caused by corrosive liquid.

Mr Adamski's wife said at the inquest that she was not satisfied that after 12 weeks of inquiries no one had found out what had actually happened to her husband.

Coroner Mr James Turnbull adjourned the inquest saying no stone would remain unturned and police would continue investigation.

ing Mr Adamski's death until the mystery was solved.

But newspaper stories of the time linked Mr Adamski's death with Mr Godfrey's UFO experience, a theory police discounted. And in October, 1981, the "News" reported that police had abruptly dropped their investigation three weeks previously and had begun a security clamp-down, forbidding officers to speak to the press.

In January this year Mr Grais, whose film credits include "Poltergeist 2", visited the town for the first time to interview Mr Godfrey for a one hour television programme based on the experience, which has been shown nationally in the U.S. by television giant CBS.

After visiting Cannes film festival earlier this month Mr Grais has been in Paris and London until his visit to Todmorden, and he flew back to the U.S. this week.

While in Europe he has been negotiating the sale of the television programme in Europe and interest has been high. The programme, "Visitors From The Unknown", was one programme of a series of three, the other two featuring UFO experiences in the U.S.

"We have been over here talking to people about the foreign sales and setting things up for the series.

"It will definitely be seen in Britain. We

have had a very positive response from the television show and there has been a lot of interest in different countries regarding the movie. The film would be made in Todmorden and there is a very good chance it will be scripted and made. I am not sure when that will go into production because we have to write it first but it will be within the next year," he said.

Mr Grais said Mr Godfrey's story was one of several submitted by another producer for a television adaption and was a recreation based on detailed interviews with Mr Godfrey.

Mr Godfrey, who has seen a copy of the show, said elements of Todmorden had been created as closely as possible and the more rural areas around Los Angeles had been used to recreate the town — even the cows, a disturbance among which the then PC Godfrey was on his way to investigate when the experience occurred has been brought in.

The television documentary also brought in the death of Mr Adamski, Mr Godfrey being one of the officers on duty first called to the scene, and newspaper reports later linked the two incidents.

The coal heap on which Mr Adamski's body was found caused problems for the film makers and Mr Grais said a heap of rocks had to be prepared and spray-painted black.

Interest in unexplained phenomena had reached a high point again with a number of

recent sitings in the U.S. and Europe, he said.

The television film includes number of special effects including spaceship interiors and aliens based on descriptions previously made by Mr Godfrey under hypnosis.

Mr Grais went to film school at New York University and then attended a course on creative writing in Oregon before moving to Los Angeles, writing episodes of television police shows "Kojak" and "Starskey and Hutch".

The first person to hire Victor and Grais Productions was English director David Putnam, for an adaption of "The October Circle", and other film credits have included "Death Hunt", which featured Charles Bronson and Lee Marvin and "Great Balls Of Fire", about rock star Jerry Lee Lewis.

Michael Grais also scripted and helped Steven Spielberg produce the first "Poltergeist" movie and then produced "Poltergeist 2", in 1984. His next project is a production of the Stephen King novel "Sleepwalkers".

While in Todmorden Mr Godfrey took him on a tour of the Yorkshire moorland, including the "Bronteland" of Haworth, and Mr Grais stayed at Scailcliffe Hall Hotel, Todmorden.

"I have enjoyed my stay at the hall which was wonderful and in the local clubs and pubs I have visited. Todmorden is a great place to live — Alan's very lucky to have grown up here and know everybody.

"It's so beautiful you could end up staying," he said.

UFO TALES FROM THE PRAIRIES

BY NED POWERS

Unidentified Flying Objects have a special lure among the curiosity-seekers.

And, for that reason alone, a Saskatchewan-produced 30-minute documentary, *UFOs: Facing The Contradiction*, will command some attention when it plays on the Saskatchewan Television Network affiliates, including CFQC-TV, Saskatoon, on Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

UFOs is produced by Hollywood North Productions Inc., with Sergei Romanoff, the producer and principal interviewer, exploring four Saskatchewan stories.

Longest and most-detailed account is the story of a September, 1974, sighting of five circular UFOs in a canola field near Langenberg. The farmer recalls the way he was "plenty scared but couldn't do nothing about it" while sitting on the seat of his swather during the time the objects were hovering.

Other stories include the discovery of mysterious rings in a barley field near Spalding in August, 1988, the witnessing of a diamond-shaped UFO hovering over a field near Preeceville in June, 1984, and the witnessing by a mother and daughter of a cigar-like flying object flying for three minutes near the highway at Laura in May, 1985.

The biggest problem is that none of the people in the stories are identified. Romanoff says he didn't have a signed agreement with one of the story-tellers but all can be identified by the people within their communities. That's a poor excuse for what amounts to a lousy journalistic job because, outside of their communities, who's to know whether these are real people.

Cameron Mitchell, an actor with excellent Hollywood credits, makes an appearance halfway through the show to tell audiences that an organi-

zation known as Canadian Aerial Phenomenon Research Investigations, based in Saskatoon, will pay \$25,000 to the person who offers the most promising exploration of the mysterious rings at Spalding. It wreaks of show business hokum, doesn't add any credibility to the show and if the research investigators ever pay out the reward, hopefully they'll tell someone.

Stronger editing would have enriched the documentary's quality but there are some good elements, including the planet photography by James Cousins, the narration by Earl Pennington and the way the UFO sighters tell their stories.

In these days when the REAL PEOPLE phenomenon is taking hold with programs with like *America's Funniest Home Videos* and *America's Funniest People*, who's to say anymore what kind of quality people expect from their television screens?

Do mantis-like UFO beings prey on us?

By JEFF MAY
Courier-News Staff Writer

To the list of exotic creatures reported at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, add one more: praying mantis-like visitors from another planet.

Four weeks ago, Passaic Township police received an early morning call from an agitated Hoboken man who said he'd been abducted by an unidentified flying object while strolling on one of the refuge's observation decks the previous day.

"I saw this ship that was the size of a car, off the ground, with tripod feet," Lt. Donald Van Tassell said. "He said this arm came out from it, grabbed him around the waist and took him inside."

Once inside, the man — whose name police will not release "due to the nature of the call" — said the ship turned out to be as large as "three football fields," the officer

said. The caller also said he was physically examined during the 2 1/2-hour ordeal but not injured.

"He said they were praying mantis-type creatures that meant him no harm," Van Tassell said.

After regaining consciousness on the walkway of the swamp boardwalk, the man reported feeling disoriented. He told police that he drove back to Hoboken before deciding to notify them.

Police, park employees and even UFO researchers expressed skepticism about what appears to be the first reported extra-terrestrial sighting in the refuge.

"I live a mile from where it happened," Van Tassell said. "I was having a big barbecue at the time, and I didn't see anything."

Tom McFadden, outdoor recreation planner for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, said he spent two hours combing the area for signs of the UFO. The routine check bore little fruit: not even scorch marks from the

landing.

"We used to get calls like that all the time in Philadelphia," said McFadden, recalling his previous assignment with the federal agency. At the time, he worked next to a mental asylum, he said.

Central Jersey's most famous space traveler, Howard Menger, said he has no doubt that there are UFOs in this area.

"I know they're all out there," said the former Hunterdon County sign painter, now 69 and living in Vero Beach, Fla. Menger briefly burst onto the national scene in the mid-1950s, when he announced that he'd been a frequent flier on interplanetary saucers. He parlayed his experiences into appearances on the Steve Allen and "Tonight" shows, later organizing a UFO convention that drew 1,000 curiosity-seekers to his Tewksbury farm in 1958.

Although he still claims contact with ex-



Courier-News Illustration by Miss Scott

traterrestrial life, Menger said he was not familiar with the type of alien reported at the Great Swamp.

"I didn't meet any of those kinds," he said. "The ones I talked to were angelic. They came with a message similar to what the Scriptures have been telling us for 2,000 years: not to kill."

Walter H. Andrus Jr., international director of the UFO Mutual Network, an organization based in Segun, Texas, that claims 3,100 members worldwide, has a theory about the "praying mantis" sighting.

"He probably got this right from the book 'Communion: a True Story' (by Whitley Strieber)," Andrus said. In the 1987 book, which Andrus calls fiction, aliens are portrayed as buglike.

"Maybe he's looking for attention," Andrus said, referring to the Hoboken caller. "Not that we don't have abductions. They're going on around the world all the time."

Only about 10 percent of the reports that the UFO Mutual Network sifts through are likely to be alien encounters, Andrus said. "They usually turn out to be something mundane: space debris, satellites, aircraft," he said.

UFO sightings tend to come in cycles and appear to be picking up in recent years, he said. Sometimes, the upswings are the result of the debut of a ~~space-themed~~ book or movie, such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," but not always.

Andrus said he interviewed a young Dallas girl who said she saw aliens earlier this week. Another recent interview involved a 31-year-old man who said he was abducted several times.

"Abduction accounts have gotten heavy in the past few years," he said.

Putting its biggest foot forward



Monica Pihel-Baister photo

The Bigfoot character Harry, from the television show "Harry and the Hendersons," paid a visit to Bothell for the Freedom Festival

parade last Thursday to help local resident Cliff Crook realize his dream of a "Bigfoot sale haven" in Bothell.

Local man dreams of making Bothell 'Bigfoot Central'

by Charles Bevier
Courier staff reporter

BOTHELL — Having Sasquatch become a celebrity through a movie and TV show could be the best thing for the elusive creatures, said the founder of an organization here that hopes to protect the large hairy critters.

Bothell resident Cliff Crook says he has been on the trail of "Bigfoot" for the past 35 years after encountering one of the creatures in the woods near Duval when he was 16.

"I think it suppresses that monster image that most people have of them," Crook said of the

growing popularity of the TV show "Harry and the Hendersons," which is set in the Seattle area.

"For so many years people have been wanting to shoot them to find out what they are like. How can you learn what their like after they are dead?"

So Crook was pleased when producers of the show agreed to let "Harry" take part in Bothell's Fourth of July Freedom Festival last week.

"It was great I knew the children would love it but what really surprised me was the reaction from the adults. Some of them just went crazy; rushing over to give him a hug," Crook

said.

"Harry" — who was a Sasquatch-suited Los Angeles-area actor — breakfasted with area residents at the Wyndham Garden Hotel before taking part in the parade. He also appeared after the parade to sign autographs.

Crook is hoping the new found interest in Sasquatches will translate into a wealth of information for his new non-profit organization — Bigfoot Central.

While people across the country have had sightings of the creatures, they have not had any place to report them for investigation, he said.

"We have attended conferences across the country on Bigfoot. When people finally have a place where people will listen to their story they experience this overwhelming sense of relief," he said.

Crook's wife Carol said those who have seen what they thought were Sasquatches, do not often have a sympathetic forum. "We often joke that we are going to open a support group for Bigfoot sightings."

With the establishment last month of Bigfoot Central, Cliff hopes to fill that information void and push for protection of the elusive critters.

The ultimate dream for Bigfoot Central is opening a national museum and cultural center.

"We just want to make people aware of the possibilities that these creatures do exist," he said. "We also want to help with the protection of other endangered species and their habitat."

But they need corporate and in-

Calendar

NOVEMBER 1991

Parapsychology Committee:

The third Wednesday in November will discuss the video "Reasonable Doubt", focusing on the parapsychological aspects of the Kennedy Assassination at the home of John and Elenor Schroeder, 4991 Miami Street, St. Louis, Missouri at 7:30 PM. Walter Palmer, Chairman. Call 771-0173 or 352-3058.

UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis:

The second Sunday in November at the Tyler Place Presbyterian Church, 2109 S. Spring at Russell in St. Louis Missouri at 2:00 PM. John Schroeder, President, (352-3058).

St. Charles UFO Research Committee:

The third Tuesday in November at Saint Charles City Hall 200 N. Second Street, 4th floor in meeting rooms A & B (70 West to Fifth Street North [or to the right] to First Capitol Drive, go right, to Second Street, go left, to the four story gold glass building near the old 115 Bridge. Parking is garage style either

on the right as you approach City Hall or right on Monroe (at the corner of the building) and then about 75 feet to another right and into the garage (G-2). Parking requires deposit of fifty cents. Bruce Widaman, Chairman (946-1394).

Collinsville UFO Research Group:

(Due to the fourth Thursday being Thanksgiving, please call the Chairman, Forest Crawford to confirm meeting day and time for November) at the Ponderosa Steak House in Eastport Plaza, Collinsville. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Take Highway 70 East to Hwy. 157 North to Collinsville exit. Go left to Eastport Plaza Drive and go left to the Ponderosa. Forest Crawford, Chairman (1-618-345- 0554).

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